

Dunham Singletary

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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This Issue

The press of family business and other events occurring in mid-January made it necessary to postpone our normal January 15th publication date. I beg your forbearance. I take our quarterly deadlines seriously and do not expect that we shall miss very many of them.

For the same reasons, I do not have an article in this issue. There are two I hope to get done soon. One is on a theory that Gratia Mahony developed, with some later help from me, on the probable tie between Jonathan Singletary Dunham and John Dunham of South Carolina (ca. 1700), the earliest direct ancestor to whom I and a great number of "southern" Dunhams/Dunnams can trace. The other is on further relationships between the Dunham and Singletary families. Jonathan Dunham's name change was not the only point of contact between these two families. So, look for these articles in the April and July issues.

This issue contains another of Gratia's ongoing series of articles about the descendants of Deacon John Dunham: their proliferation and spread from Massachusetts into the surrounding areas of early colonial America. Her current article is on Joseph Dunham and his sisters, Hannah and Persis. There is a wealth of materials in Gratia's

articles, especially for Deacon John Dunham descendants who can trace back to these families.

The second article in this issue is a short review by Paul C. Dunham on a book about Corporal Jason Dunham, a marine who was killed in Iraq two years ago. We sent a letter of condolence to Jason's family shortly after news of his death. We have not heard from them but shall try again.

Editor's Corner

This is our sixth Newsletter and, apart from being slightly late, I hope you enjoy it and have enjoyed the preceding issues. If there are any new members who would like to have back copies of previous newsletters, let me know and I shall endeavor to get them to you. For those of you who save these newsletters, the accumulation of them should, we hope, over time build a historical archive on many aspects of your family's history that you would otherwise never have. That is one of our objectives.

We wish to welcome Tom Berg to our Board and encourage him to press on with his potential English Dunham and Singletary contacts. These are important because they represent our only prospect now for pushing back knowledge of our origins to yet earlier

times and finding Dunham and Singletary cousins whose forbears did not come to America. With the two major family surname groups we have identified in America, the “Deacon John” and Singletary groups, we know the earliest progenitors who set foot on these shores, and many of us can trace back to them. So, in this sense, DNA studies in England are a new frontier for us. Since the Dunham and Singletary names are not altogether common, I rather imagine there are some welcome and enlightening surprises awaiting us if we can establish promising and cooperative contacts in England and get some DNA testing underway there.

Getting more members into our association still remains our largest need. We are making slow but steady progress, and I hope all of us will endeavor to recruit people they know who are prospects to join.

Joseph ² Dunham and his Sisters, Hannah ² and Persis ²

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

The second generation sons of Deacon John Dunham, as well as the second generation sons of many Plymouth families, were interested in settling on some of the division land to which they and their fathers were entitled. Portions of the common land (or commonly held land) were granted to the “first comers” and their sons. The April 2005 issue of the Dunham/Singletary Family Connections newsletter described the family of Samuel ² Dunham, whose son Samuel ³ moved out along South Meadow Road into land now within the bounds of Carver Massachusetts.

The land on which Deacon John Dunham lived in the Town of Plymouth was in the area south of Town Brook. Close neighbors

of Deacon John were Giles Rickard, Jr. (who married Hannah ² Dunham) and Benajah Pratt (who was the first husband of Persis ² Dunham). Joseph ² Dunham received six acres of land in this area “near unto the land my dear father John Dunham deceased died possessed of...” Joseph ² also received some division land by bequest of his father which was in an area known as Swan Hold, near Colchester River in an area called Lakenham. During the 1680s and 1690s Deacon John Dunham’s son Joseph and the husbands of Deacon John’s daughters Persis and Hannah were among those interested in settling on this land which was directly west of Plymouth. This land was still within the boundary of Plymouth Colony. This area became part of Plympton in March 1707. The actual location on which Joseph ² settled was called locally “Dunham’s Neck” and lay between Colchester River and Winnetuxet River.

Joseph ² Dunham had married first Mercy Morton who died 19 February 1666. Joseph and Mercy probably lived at the small settlement just south of Plymouth known as Wellingsly. The will of Nathaniel Morton (father of Mercy), dated 22 April 1685, gave “unto my two grandsons, Eleazer Dunham and Nathaniel Dunham, the land their father lived on at Wellingsly”. After Mercy’s death Joseph ² Dunham married Hester/ Esther Wormal. By 1691 Joseph and Hester were preparing to move their family to Lakenham and they sold their Plymouth lands to John Carver.

Giles and Hannah ² (Dunham) Rickard lived and died in Plymouth, but the family connections between their children and those of Joseph ² Dunham remained strong. Two of the sons of Giles and Hannah (Dunham) Rickard moved to Plympton. These were Samuel ³ Rickard and Josiah

Rickard. In the fourth generation Cornelius ⁴ Dunham (Israel ³ Joseph ² John ¹) married Joanna ⁴ Rickard (Deacon John ³ Giles ² and Hannah (Dunham) Rickard, Giles ¹).

The family of Persis ² Dunham and her first husband Benajah Pratt also continued to have strong ties to the families of Joseph ² Dunham and Hannah ² (Dunham) Rickard. Persis ² Dunham married Benajah Pratt, son of Joshua and Bathsheba Pratt. Benajah was born about 1630 and he died in Plymouth 17 March 1682/3. Persis married second in August of 1683 Jonathan Shaw. An interesting prenuptial agreement between Persis (Dunham) Pratt and Jonathan Shaw is referred to in an article by Jonathan Allen Shaw [NEHGR 151:276]. This document was witnessed by Joseph ² Dunham and his son Eleazer ³ Dunham. Jonathan Shaw was said to have been the first permanent resident of Lakenham and he called himself “of Lakenham” in the prenuptial agreement dated August 1683.

Even though Jonathan Shaw and Joseph ² Dunham had been living in Lakenham for several years, Jonathan Shaw and his wife Persis (Dunham) (Pratt) Shaw, and Joseph Dunham were formally dismissed by the First Church in Plymouth to begin a new church in Plympton on 26 October 1698. This church was located on what is now Rt. 58 (Main Street) in Plympton. The site of the home of Jonathan and Persis Shaw was very near this church at what is now 16 Green Street, North Carver, at the junction with Braddock Way.

The children of Benajah and Persis ² (Dunham) Pratt were:

- i. Joshua ³ Pratt b. 1656
- ii. Abigail ³ Pratt b. 21 Nov. 1657
- iii. John ³ Pratt b. 1659
- iv. Benajah ³ Pratt b. 1663

- v. Joseph ³ Pratt b. 1664/5; prob. d.y.
- vi. Mehitabel ⁵ Pratt b. 1667
 - m. Jonathan Shaw, Jr.
- vii. Eleazer ³ Pratt b. 1672
- viii. Joseph ³ Pratt b. 1676
- ix. Daniel ³ Pratt b. say 1680

An Interesting Lineage

An interesting lineage of one of the members of Dunham/Singletary Family Connections is that of Helen May Pratt of Duxbury Massachusetts. Helen is a descendant of three of Deacon John Dunham's children in the second generation; Joseph ², Persis ², and Hannah ² Dunham. Her direct line is from Persis ² Dunham who married Benajah ² Pratt, and this descent continues with Daniel ³ Benjamin ⁴ Noah ⁵ Isaiah ⁶ Winslow ⁷ Frederick Austin ⁸ William Andrew ⁹ Burton ¹⁰ Helen May ¹¹ Pratt. She has a second line from Persis ² Dunham because William Andrew ⁹ Pratt married his cousin Helen Ward ¹⁰ Pratt. This second line descends from another son of Persis ² and Benajah Pratt through Joshua ^{3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8} Orange Scott ⁹ Helen Ward ¹⁰ Pratt, Burton ¹¹ Pratt, Helen May ¹² Pratt.

Helen May Pratt of Duxbury Massachusetts has three lines of descent from Hannah ² Dunham and Giles ² Rickard. The first is Giles ² John ³ Rickard, Mercy ⁴ (Rickard) and Ephraim Tilson, Hannah ⁵ Tilson and John Cole, Mercy ⁶ Cole who married Noah ⁵ Pratt as given in the line above. The second line from Hannah ² Dunham and Giles ² Rickard is through Abigail ³ Rickard who married James Whiton, James ⁴ Whiton, Elisha ⁵ Whiton who married Joannah Rickard,, Abigail ⁶ Whiton and Benjamin Ransom, Ruth Ransom who married Isaiah ⁶ Pratt as above. The third line from Hannah ² Dunham and Giles ² Rickard is from John ³ Rickard whose daughter Joannah ⁴ Rickard married Elisha Whiton.

Helen May Pratt of Duxbury Massachusetts has two lines of descent from Joseph² Dunham and Mercy Morton. These lines are the same through the sixth generation and are Eleazer³ Dunham and Bathsheba Whiston, Joshua⁴ Dunham and Sarah⁴ Pratt (daughter of Daniel³ Pratt), Sarah⁵ Dunham and her second husband Thomas Southworth, Lydia⁶ Southworth and John Douglas. The line continues with two sons of John and Lydia (Southworth) Douglas who were Ephraim⁷ Douglas and John⁷ Douglas. Ephraim⁷ Douglas married Deborah Haskins and the line continues with Elijah⁸ Douglas, who married his first cousin Mehitable⁸ Douglas, the daughter of John⁷ and Mehitable (Elliott) Douglas. The child of Elijah⁸ and Mehitable⁸ (Douglas) Douglas was Eliza Ellen⁹ Douglas who married Frederick Austin⁸ Pratt as above. So in sum, Helen May Pratt is descended from Deacon John Dunham seven times through three of his children. (*See Helen May Pratt's Picture on page 19.*)

The Sons of Joseph² Dunham

Joseph² Dunham was born in Plymouth about 1631, and he died in Plympton Massachusetts between 9 March 1702/3 and 16 June 1703. Joseph's first wife was Mercy Morton, daughter of Nathaniel and Lydia (Cooper) Morton. Joseph married second 20 August 1669 Hester Wormall.

Joseph² Dunham was the father of 6 sons and 2 daughters. His children are identified in his will as "eldest sons Eleazer and Nathaniel, sons Micajah and Joseph, youngest sons Benajah and Daniel." He names his daughter Mercy, but does not name his youngest daughter Esther. His daughter Mercy died in 1715, probably unmarried. His daughter Esther married Seth Jackson but there is no record of any chil-

dren born to this couple. The sons and grandsons of Joseph² Dunham married and moved out into many of the towns surrounding Plymouth. A brief description of these sons in the third and fourth generation follows.

2. Eleazer³ Dunham (Joseph² John¹) was born in Plymouth say 1659. There is no death record and no probate for Eleazer but he died after 24 September 1713 (license to sell liquor) and probably after 17 March 1719/20 (date of deed). Eleazer married say 1682 **Bathsheba Whiston**, daughter of John and Susanna (Hanford) Whiston. Bathsheba was baptised 1 July 1660 in Scituate. She died after March 1740/1 when a suit brought by Samuel Kempton for assistance in the support of his aged mother-in-law Bathshua Donham, widow, was settled. "The children and grandchildren of Bathshua were ordered to pay Kempton their portions of her maintenance at the rate of £36 a year, commencing 1 Oct. 1739 and apportioned as follows: Cornelius Clark, who married her daughter Susanna, £6; Nathaniel Donham and Ezekiel Donham, her grandsons, £6; Silvanus and Cornelius Dunham, the two sons of her son Israel Donham, deceased, £6; Elisha Donham in Casco Bay, £6; John Colling, who married her daughter Bathshua, £6; and Samuel Kempton £6." [The American Genealogist (TAG) Vol. 62:10-11]

Eleazer³ Dunham lived in the area just to the east of Wenham Pond where he apparently operated an inn or tavern. Plymouth County Court Records, Vol. 1:276 show persons licensed to sell liquor and include Eleazer Dunham (Innholder). The reference to licensed to sell liquor is under date of General Sessions, September 1704.

His brother Nathaniel ³ lived in this area too, but the line separating Plymouth and Plympton ran between the homes of these two brothers. Thus, the birth records of Eleazer's children are listed in the Plymouth Vital Records, while the records of Nathaniel's children are incompletely given in the Plympton Vital Records.

Children of Eleazer and Bathsheba (Whiston) Dunham born in Plymouth [Plymouth VR p. 2]

9. i. Eleazer ⁴ Dunham b. 15 January 1682
10. ii. Nathaniel ⁴ Dunham b. 20 March 1685
11. iii. Mercy/Marcy ⁴ Dunham b. 10 December 1686
12. iv. Israel ⁴ Dunham b. October 1689
13. v. Elisha ⁴ Dunham b. August 1692
14. vi. Josiah ⁴ Dunham b. June 1694
- 15.vii. Bathsheba/Barshua ⁴ Dunham b. 26 April 1696
- 16 viii. Susanna ⁴ Dunham b. June 1698
17. ix. Joshua ⁴ Dunham b. 1 April 1701

3. Nathaniel ³ Dunham (Joseph ² John ¹) was born in Plymouth say 1662. He died probably in Norton, Bristol County Massachusetts after 1734 when his second wife Elizabeth joined the Norton church. Nathaniel married first in Plymouth 21 January 1691/2 **Mary Tilson**, daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth (Hoskins) Tilson. Mary (Tilson) Dunham died in Plympton in 1714. Nathaniel married second in Norton 8 December 1714 **Elizabeth Pratt**. Nathaniel ³ continued to live in Plympton until 31 March 1727 when he purchased land in Norton from his nephew Elisha⁴, son of Eleazer ³ Dunham. This land was located to the east of Winnecunnet Pond.

There are no existing vital records which show the children of Nathaniel ³ Dunham,

and there is no will or probate record for Nathaniel or either of his wives. There are several deeds which show Nathaniel as having land in both in Plymouth and Plympton, and later in Norton. One of these deeds identifies Ephraim as a son of Nathaniel for in Plymouth Co. Land Record 22:20 dated 2 December 1725,

..I Nathaniel Donham of Plimpton for 20 pounds paid by my loving son Ephraim Donham of town aforesaid sell all that my lot of land that I have lying at a place called South Meadow Plain lying partly in Plymouth and partly in Plimpton, it being in number the sixth lot on the southerly side of the highway...

Nathaniel ³ Dunham may have been preparing for his move to Norton when on 13 January 1726 [Plymouth Co. LR 20:3] he sold to Able Crocker,

.I Nathaniel Dunham...to Able Crocker of Barnstable a certain tract of upland and meadow lying in Plimpton containing about 80 acres..viz, beginning at a maple tree standing by the southeast corner of Doten's Pond which is the corner bounds between my land and the land belonging to the children of Israel Donham and thence bounded by the range of their land until it comes to a white oak tree standing near to Swan Hold Meadow and thence bounded by the meadow of the children of Israel Donham up stream until it comes to the River...together with my now dwelling house, orchards, and fencings...

Elisha ⁴ Dunham, son of Eleazer ³ Dunham, and nephew of Nathaniel ³ was living in Norton in 1727, but was apparently desirous of moving to Casco Bay where he is later found. On 31 March 1727 [Bristol Co. LR 21:145] Elisha Dunham of

Norton conveyed property “where I now live” to Nathaniel Dunham of Plympton, husbandman.

Children of Nathaniel and Mary (Tilson) Dunham, probably born in Plympton, but not recorded on Vital Records. Birth order unknown.

18. i. Nathaniel ⁴ Dunham b. say 1692.
19. ii. Ephraim ⁴ Dunham b. say 1694
(This is the only child given for certain in the article by RoseMari Finter published in TAG Vol. 62:5-8. From my research I have placed the following children as belonging to Nathaniel and Mary (Tilson) Dunham without complete proof but with strong circumstantial evidence.)

20. iii. Mercy ⁴ Dunham b. say 1697
She seems likely to fit here as a granddaughter of Mercy Morton, mother of Nathaniel ³ Dunham, m. 28 June 1723 Israel Jackson [Plymouth VR:93]
21. iv. Ichabod ⁴ Dunham b. say 1699
22. v. Rebecca ⁴ Dunham b. say 1701, m. (probably) John Peirce, intent dated 22 May 1725 [Plymouth VR:180]

23. vi. Lydia ⁴ Dunham b. say 1703
24. vii. Lemuel ⁴ Dunham b. 13 April 1705
25. viii. Mary ⁴ Dunham b. ca. 1706, based on age at death, 24 July 1777 in her 72nd year, m. John Billington.
26. ix. Isaac ⁴ Dunham b. say 1708, m. Mary/Marcy Wetherel, he d. before 1737 when she m. second Silas Williams
27. vii. Manasseh ⁴ Dunham, b. say 1711

4. **Micajah ³ Dunham** (Joseph ² John ¹) was born in Plymouth say 1673. There is no death record and no probate for Micajah but he was dead before 1760 when Elizabeth “widow of Mi-

cajah” is mentioned in Plymouth Church Records. Micajah married 26 June 1701

Elizabeth Lazell, daughter of Joshua and Mary (--) Lazell. Elizabeth was born in Hingham 20 December 1681.

There are several Plymouth County Land Records which document property held by Micajah Dunham in both Plymouth and Plympton. Of these Plymouth County Land Record 9:176-7, dated 19 May 1712 conveys Micajah’s right in land formerly John Dunham’s now belonging to heirs of Joseph ² Dunham, deceased. On 14 October 1727 [Ply Co. LR 22:99] Micajah Dunham sold a large portion of his holdings,

“...I Micajah Donham of Plymouth, labourer, for £100 paid by Thomas Edwards of Boston, goldsmith sell all that my lots of land lying in Plymouth and Plimton, my thirteenth lot laid out in the first great lot in the last division of Plymouth, with my mansion house on it and my 20 acre lot and 60 acre lot which I bought of Robert and Thomas Barrows (excepting what I sold off to Nathaniel Jackson of Plymouth as may appear by plat of the said land) with my meadow in Swan Hold which I bought of my honored mother Esther Donham as may appear by the county records of Plymouth and also all my land which was laid out to the children of Joseph Donham deceased

as may appear by the proprietors records of Plymouth both divided and undivided...”

Children of Micajah and Elizabeth (Lazell) Dunham: First three on Plymouth VR:33, fourth on Plympton VR, last two probably born in Plympton but not on Vital Records there.

- 28. i. Joshua ⁴ Dunham b. 30 June 1701
- 29. ii. Joseph ⁴ Dunham b. 12 March 1704/5
- 30. iii. Abigail ⁴ Dunham b. 19 July 1707
- 31. iv. Joanna ⁴ Dunham b. 5 Nov. 1709
- 32. v. David ⁴ Dunham b. say 1712
- 33. vi. Micajah ⁴ Dunham b. say 1716

5. Joseph ³ Dunham (Joseph ² John ¹) was born in Plymouth say 1675-6. There is no death record and no probate for Joseph but he was dead by December 1752 when his widow conveyed land to two of her sons in return for support. Joseph married probably in Freetown 19 June 1706 **Bethia Chase**, daughter of Benjamin and Phillipa (Sherman) Chase. Bethia was born in Freetown 3 December 1686, and she died after 13 April 1753 when she acknowledged a deed.

Joseph ³ Dunham like his father was a house carpenter, and this may explain why he is of record in the towns of Plympton, Freetown, Norton, Edgartown and finally Middleboro Massachusetts. The first two children of Joseph and Bethia (Chase) Dunham are recorded in the Vital Records of Freetown. These were Hannah, born 1 June 1707, and Stephen, born 5 May 1709. The next record we have of Joseph Dunham is a statement of his residence on Lockety Neck in Norton. The minister, Joseph Avery, was preaching at Freetown by 1710, and on 23 Dec. 1710 he was

called to the church at Norton. On 1 January 1711-12 the rate bill for building Mr. Avery's house gives a list of the inhabitants of Norton at that date. Mr. Avery did not accept the call until 13 September 1714. It is likely that Joseph Dunham was the man building the house for Joseph Avery, as deeds prove his residence in Norton between 1713 and 1715. Joseph Dunham signed the covenant of the Norton Church on 4 October 1714, and on 22 May 1715 his son Joseph was baptized there.

The next two deeds to Joseph and Bethia Dunham indicate his residence in Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, and then in Middleboro, Plymouth County. These deeds are interesting as they are the conveyance of land in Middleboro by the brothers of Bethia (Chase) Dunham. Birstol County Land Record 18:93, dated 26 June, 1724, from Walter Chase to Joseph and Bethia Dunham and also a similar deed from Benjamin Chase illustrate this.

*“..Know ye that I the said
Walter Chase for and in
consideration of the love,
which I
bear towards my loving
friends Joseph Donham of
Edgartown in Dukes
County in New England
aforesaid, Houseright, and
Bethiah his wife, have
given and granted . . . unto
the said Joseph Donham
and Bethia his wife one
quarter of a forty acre lot
being the fourteenth lot in
the first division of a cer-
tain tract of land called the
Sixteen Shilling Purchase*

*lying in Middlebough in
the County of Plymouth in
New England . . .”*

Joseph Dunham died sometime between the date of a deed written on 9 June 1735 and 15 December 1752 when his widow Bethia conveys the 14th lot to two of her sons Stephen and Josiah. Plymouth County Land Record 79:209, dated 15 December 1752 therefore identifies another child of Joseph and Bethia as son Josiah.

*“ . . I Bethiah Donham of
Middleborough in the
county of Plymouth . . .
widow, for and in consid-
eration that two of my sons
(viz) Stephen Dunham of
Middleborough in the
County of Plymouth, yeo-
man and Josiah Dunham of
Providence in the Colony of
Rhode Island...have under-
taken to maintain me Be-
thiah Dunham during my
life time . . . confirm unto
them the said Stephen
Dunham and the said Josiah
Donham their heirs and as-
signs forever, a certain lot
of land being a forty acre lot
be it more or less, and the
fourteenth lot in number in
the first division of land
called the Sixteen Shilling
Purchase lying in Middle-
borough . . . which land I
hold by deed of gift, and
also by my father Benjamin
Chases will, and from my
brother Benjamin Chase
and my brother Walter
Chase formerly all of Taun-
ton. . .”*

Proven children of Joseph and Bethia (Chase) Dunham are Hannah, Stephen, Josiah and Joseph. I have placed the other children in this family based on circumstantial evidence but without proof.

- 34. i. Hannah ⁴ Dunham b. 1 June 1707, Freetown VR
- 35. ii. Stephen ⁴ Dunham b. 5 May 1709, Freetown VR
- 36. iii. Caleb ⁴ Dunham b. say 1711 (Caleb m. 30 Mar. 1731 Mary Copeland)
- 37. iii. Josiah ⁴ Dunham b. say 1713, a child proven by Plymouth County LR 79:209
- 38. iv. Joseph ⁴ Dunham bp. 11 May 1715, Norton VR
- 39. v. Esther ⁴ Dunham b. say 1717 (m. Lemuel Robbins of Plympton)
- 40. vi. Ephraim ⁴ Dunham b. say 1719
- 41. vii. Nathaniel ⁴ Dunham b. say 1721
- 42. viii. Jonathan ⁴ Dunham b. say 1723 (see Plymouth Co. LR 42:30, dated 28 March 1752)
- 43. ix. Phebe ⁴ Dunham b. say 1725
- 44. x. Mary ⁴ Dunham b. say 1727
- xi. Possibly Bethiah ⁴ Dunham b. about 1720-22 who married James Perkins

6. Benajah ³ Dunham (Joseph ² John ¹) was baptised in Plymouth 1684. He died in Tisbury, Dukes County Massachusetts 8 December 1766. Benajah married probably in Edgartown 7 May 1708 **Sarah Covel**, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Atwood) Covel. They were married by Pastor Jonathan Dunham who was an uncle of Benajah. Sarah Covel was born in Edgartown in 1693, died there 16 August 1778.

By will of his father Benajah ³ and his younger brother Daniel ³ received 40 acres of land in Plympton that “I now live on which is my homestead” to be divided be-

tween them. Benajah sold this land to William Canady in 1708. Benajah came to Edgartown about 1708. He was Master of the House of Correction in 1731. He is buried at Tower Hill Cemetery in Edgartown.

This is the second Dunham family to move to Martha's Vineyard. This line is fairly well carried out by Charles Edward Banks in Volume III of his History of Martha's Vineyard.

Children of Benajah and Sarah (Covel) Dunham born in Edgartown : [Banks Vol. III:165]

45. i. Benajah ⁴ Dunham b. 7 February 1708/9
46. ii. Daniel ⁴ Dunham b. 1712
47. iii. Mercy ⁴ Dunham b. 1716
48. iv. Elizabeth ⁴ Dunham b. about 1720 (prob. 1732)
49. v. Ebenezer ⁴ Dunham b. about 1725

7. Daniel ³ Dunham (Joseph ² John ¹) was baptised in Plymouth 1687. He died between 12 March 1750 and 6 March 1758, the dates on which his will was written and probated. Daniel married **Sarah** (--) about 1709. We do not know when Sarah died but it was after 12 March 1750 as she is mentioned in Daniel's will where she received all the estate. His will states "My children already had portions and their mother has greater occasion." Daniel resided in Newport by 15 April 1709, the date on which he sold his portion of the land left to him by will of his father. In another deed of sale, Daniel identifies himself as a chairmaker.

Because the children of Daniel and Sarah Dunham were not named in his will, it has taken a great deal of research to identify these children and follow their migration patterns. This family will be the subject of

a future article in the Dunham-Singletary Family Connections newsletter. These children are given here as listed in the Rhode Island Genealogical Register Vol. 12:266-7.

50. i. Persis ⁴ Dunham b. 7 February 1710
51. ii. Daniel ⁴ Dunham b. 3 August 1712
52. iii. John ⁴ Dunham b. 19 Dec. 1715
53. vi. Robert ⁴ Dunham b. ca. 1716
54. v. Sarah ⁴ Dunham b. 6 September 1718
55. vi. Esther ⁴ Dunham b. 5 March 1720
56. vii. Joseph ⁴ Dunham b. 24 February 1723/4
57. viii. Mercy ⁴ Dunham b. 3 November 1727
58. ix. Abigail ⁴ Dunham b. ca. 1728
59. x. Benjamin ⁴ Dunham b. 19 April 1730

Difficulties in Tracing the Fourth Generation

Tracing the fourth generation offspring of Joseph ² Dunham has presented many problems. For whatever reasons the children in the fourth and fifth generations were not always recorded in Massachusetts town Vital Records. Possibly this was because the families lived too far away from the church to have all their children baptized, or possibly some of these became members of the Baptist faith and thus their children were not baptized at birth, or possibly baptismal records were lost or accidentally burned. Also, these families began to move further out from the old towns into places like Norton (the north precinct of Taunton), or north into York county Maine, or even further northeast to Nova Scotia, and west into Worcester and Hampshire county Massachusetts. To illustrate the spreading out of

the descendants of Joseph² Dunham some of the lines of the fourth generation will be given briefly below.

12. Israel⁴ Dunham (Eleazer³ Joseph² John¹) born in Plymouth October 1689, died 18 August 1726 “in 36th year”. Israel married 13 December 1713 **Joanna Rickard**, daughter of Deacon John and Mary (--) Rickard. Joanna was born in Plymouth 22 September 1691. Joanna’s father John Rickard was the son of Giles Rickard who married Hannah² Dunham (John¹ Dunham). Joanna (Rickard) Dunham married second in Plympton by Mr. Isaac Cushman 10 October 1728 **Elisha Whiton**.

Children of Israel and Joanna (Rickard) Dunham born in Plympton: [Plympton VR: 94-5]

- i. Silvanus⁵ Dunham b. 26 May 1714
- ii. Cornelius⁵ Dunham b. 12 August 1716
- iii. Ebenezer⁵ Dunham b. 5 February 1718/19
- iv. Susanna⁵ Dunham b. 16 July 1721
- v. James⁵ Dunham b. 9 December 1723
- vi. Israel⁵ Dunham b. ca. 1725-6, but not on Plympton VR,

13. Elisha⁴ Dunham (Eleazer³ Joseph² John¹) born in Plymouth August 1692, died after March 1740/1 when he was named on the support agreement for Bathsheba Dunham. Elisha married in Gloucester 16 April 1717 **Mary Babson**. [Gloucester VR:183] Elisha Dunham was in Gloucester until at least July of 1723, but he was “of Norton” on 15 September 1724 [Bristol Co. LR 19:83] when he purchased land from Uriah Leonard. He was also “of Norton” on 31 March 1727 [Bristol Co. LR 21:145] when he sold that property “where I now live” to Nathaniel Dunham of Plympton, husbandman.

Between April 1727 and August 1729 Elisha Dunham bought and sold several other parcels of land in Norton. By 8 August 1733 [Bristol Co. LR21:472] he was “of Falmouth county of York” when he sold land in Norton to James Boldery of Norton. Elisha Dunham is of record on the probate files of York County when on 12 October 1741 he was one of the appraisers of the estate of Martha Millet of Falmouth. It is likely that there were unrecorded children born to Elisha and Mary (Babson) Dunham in Norton during their residence there.

Children of Elisha and Mary (Babson) Dunham: First 4 on Gloucester VR:224.

- i. Jonathan⁵ Dunham b. 11 December 1717
- ii. David Dunham b. 26 September 1719
- iii. Elisha Dunham b. 30 July 1721
- iv. Solomon Dunham b. 16 July 1723 possibly others born between 1724-1733 in Norton MA

18. Nathaniel⁴ Dunham (Nathaniel³ Joseph² John¹) born say 1692, died after 4 August 1765 [Bristol Co. LR 48:366] “...Nathaniel Dunham Jr. of Norton, for £10 paid by Nathaniel Dunham of Norton, yeoman, land I lately bought of John Hall...10 acres...to corner of my land...” This deed was signed by Nathaniel and Sarah, and witnessed by Bethia Freeman and Mehitabel Tucker. Nathaniel⁴ Dunham married first **Marcy** (--). Little is known of Marcy except that she was admitted to the Church in Norton in 1742, and had died before June 1756 when Nathaniel married his second wife. Nathaniel married second in Norton 14 June 1756 **Sarah Hodges**, widow of Benjamin Hodges, and former widow of Benjamin Silley, and daughter of John and Sarah (--) Lane of Norton.

Children of Nathaniel and Marcy (--)
Dunham:

All on Norton Vital Records except the last one.

- i. Abigail ⁵ Dunham b. 8 September 1720, d. 12 March 1735
- ii. Nathaniel ⁵ Dunham b. 20 June 1722
- iii. Mary ⁵ Dunham b. 17 August 1724
- iv. Asell ⁵ Dunham b. 12 October 1726, d. 11 July 1746
- v. Solomon ⁵ Dunham b. 18 February 8
- vi. Barshebe ⁵ Dunham b. 1 June 1732 (twin)
- vii. David ⁵ Dunham b. 1 June 1732 (twin)
- viii. Elizabeth ⁵ Dunham b. 6 April 1734, unmarried
- ix. Patience ⁵ Dunham b. 15 May 1736
- x. Timothy ⁵ Dunham b. 28 September 1737
- xi. Abiel ⁵ Dunham b. 4 February 1740 Attleboro

19. Ephraim ⁴ Dunham (Nathaniel ³ Joseph ² John ¹) born in Plymouth say 1694-95, died between 10 December 1753 when he wrote his will and 27 July 1778 when his estate was probated. Ephraim married first in Middleboro December 1725 **Annis Smith**, daughter of John and Mary (Ellenwood) Smith. Annis was baptized in Beverly, Essex Co. MA 24 November 1695, [Beverly VR:115] and she died before 1729 when Ephraim married his second wife.

John Smith was of Beverly when he married before 1686 Mary Ellenwood. Their first four children, Jonathan, James, Mary and Abigail were baptized in Beverly 14 October 1694. The fourth child, Abigail, became the wife of Ebenezer ⁴ Dunham, (Samuel ^{3,2} John ¹ Dunham). In a deed

dated 11 February 1702/3 John Smith purchased two 100 acre lots in Middleboro.

Ephraim Dunham married second in East Bridgewater in 1729 **Elizabeth Bump/Bumpas**. Ephraim Dunham was still "of Plimpton" on 15 March 1732 when he purchased his father's homestead [Bristol Co. LR 21:248]. Ephraim exchanged this land with Charles Waste/West of Middleboro on 4 April 1742 [Bristol Co. LR 32:1]. On 27 July 1778 the administrators of the estate of Ephraim Dunham made division of his land to and among the children and heirs of "Jonathan Donham, only son of the said Ephraim Donham.

Child of Ephraim and Annis (Smith)
Dunham:

- i. Jonathan ⁵ Dunham b. 4 November 1726

21. Ichabod ⁴ Dunham (Nathaniel ³ Joseph ² John ¹) born in Plymouth say 1699.

From NEHGR Vol. 75:108, 191-193 Re. Church at Wells, Maine: also Vol. 74:104-108, 119-120.

Received to full communion 21 Jan.

1727/8, Ichabod Dunnam & Mary Dunnam.

Children of Ichabod and Mary Dunham baptized in Wells, Maine:

- i. Jeremiah ⁵ Dunham 21 Jan. 1727/8
- ii. Abigail ⁵ Dunham 15 June 1729
- iii. Lydia ⁵ Dunham 11 Apr. 1731
- iv. Elkanah ⁵ Dunham 16 Sept. 1733
- v. Ebenezer ⁵ Dunham 18 Apr. 1736
- vi. Daniel ⁵ Dunham 30 July 1738
- vii. Meribah ⁵ Dunham 20 July 1740
- viii. Lydia ⁵ Dunham 26 June 1743 (twin)
- ix. Miriam ⁵ Dunham 26 June 1743

(twin)

24. Lemuel⁴ Dunham (Nathaniel³ Joseph² John¹) born probably in Plympton 13 April 1705, died after 17 October 1763 when he sold land in Middleboro to Isaac Billington. Lemuel married in Middleboro 16 September 1735 **Elizabeth Tinkham**, daughter of Shuball and Priscilla (Childs) Tinkham. Elizabeth was born in Middleboro 1 October 1719, died aged 63, or about 1782. *Mayflower Families: The Peter Brown Family, Volume 7, p. 84* gives the parents of Lemuel Dunham as Ephraim and Annis (Smith) Dunham. This is incorrect, as Ephraim Dunham did not marry Annis Smith until December 1725. Lemuel was not a son of Joseph³ and Bethia (Chase) Dunham, and he is not included among the recorded children of Eleazer³ and Bathsheba (Whiston) Dunham. Given his date of birth and marriage, he is placed as the son of Nathaniel³ and Mary (Tilson) Dunham as the most logical position. Shubael Tinkham built a slitting mill on the Nemasket River. Shubael Tinkham died in Middleboro 29 March 1739 in his 47th year, and his will mentions daughter Elizabeth Donham.

Children of Lemuel and Elizabeth (Tinkham) Dunham born in Middleborough [Middleborough VR:24,68,77,91,92]

- i. Ebenezer⁵ Dunham b. 4 January 1737/8
- ii. Priscilla⁵ Dunham b. 28 June 1740
- iii. (--)onham, b. 24 October 1742
This was probably Isaac, as a brother of Manasseh by the name of Isaac was listed in Manasseh's estate.
- iv. Lemuel⁵ Dunham b. 14 July 1746
- v. Joseph⁵ Dunham b. 21 April 1749
- vi. Ephraim⁵ Dunham b. 23 January 1752
- vii. Manasseh⁵ Dunham b. 25 February

1755

- viii. Elizabeth⁵ Dunham b. 1 June 1757
- ix. Gamaliel⁵ Dunham b. 28 September 1759

26. Isaac⁴ Dunham (Nathaniel³ Joseph² John¹) born say 1708, died before 1737 when Marcy married second Silas Williams. Isaac married in Norton, Bristol Co. MA 31 January 1731/2 **Marcy Wetherel**. The will of Nathaniel Wetherel of Norton dated 18 April 1760 names his daughter Mary [deceased] late wife of Silas Williams.

Child of Isaac⁴ and Mary/Marcy (Wetherel) Dunham:

- i. Phebe⁵ Dunham b. 18 April 1832, Easton, Bristol County Massachusetts,
- m. 21 November 1755 Richard Hewet

27. Manasseh⁴ Dunham (Nathaniel³ Joseph² John¹) born say 1711. Manasseh "of Plymouth" married probably in Middleborough 11 August 1740 **Sarah Hanks**, of Middleborough. They apparently resided in Middleborough until about February 1741/2 when they moved to Plymouth and were listed in the "Warnings Out in Plymouth" dated 24 April 1741, as "Manassah Donham with his wife and child who came about two months ago from the town of Middleborough."

28. Joshua⁴ Dunham (Micajah³ Joseph² John¹) born in Plymouth 30 June 1701. He married in Plymouth 25 June 1734 **Ann Revis**.

This is NOT the Joshua who married Sarah Pratt. That Joshua was Joshua⁴ son of Eleazer³ Joseph² John¹, and that Joshua was born 1 April 1701.

Children of Joshua and Ann (Revis)
Dunham: at least

- i. James⁵ Dunham b. after 1734

29. Joseph⁴ Dunham (Micajah³ Joseph² John¹) born in Plymouth 12 March 1704/5. Joseph married (intent given in Plymouth) 13 March 1730/31 **Jean Randel** of Scituate. Joseph may have been living at Scituate prior to his marriage as on 16 March 1730/31 he was “warned out” of Plymouth, “We the subscribers, selectmen of the town of Plymouth, declare that the above named Joseph Donham is not an inhabitant in said town according to law...” signed Isaac Lothrop, Benja. Warren, John Foster.

Children of Joseph and Jean/Jane (Randel)
Dunham: at least

- i. Elizabeth⁵ Dunham b. 21 February 1732, [Scituate VR p. 140]

32. David⁴ Dunham (Micajah³ Joseph² John¹) probably born in Plympton say 1712, but not on the Plympton Vital Records. He is placed as a child of Micajah because research that I have done indicates that he may be a son of Micajah Dunham. Some of the fourth generation sons of Micajah³ Dunham moved to Brimfield, Brookfield and Monson Massachusetts. The results of this research will be detailed in a future article.

33. Micajah⁴ Dunham (Micajah³ Joseph² John¹) probably born in Plympton say 1716, but not on the Plympton Vital Records, died in Brimfield Hampshire Co. MA in November 1756. Micajah married in Brookfield Worcester Co. MA 15 November 1735 **Mary Davis**, daughter of Samuel and Thankful (Clesson) Davis. Mary died in Brimfield Hampshire Co. MA 18 December 1798.

Children of Micajah⁴ and Mary (Davis)
Dunham [Brimfield VR p. 50-51]

- i. Joseph⁵ Dunham b. 22 January 1738/9 (twin)
- ii. Thomas⁵ Dunham b. 22 January 1738/9 (twin)
- iii. David⁵ Dunham b. 1 February 1740/41
- iv. Thankful⁵ Dunham b. 3 August 1743
- v. Mary⁵ Dunham b. prob. after 1743
- vi. Lydia⁵ Dunham b.
- vii. Lois⁵ Dunham b. October 1757 (VRs say dau. widow Dunham)

35. Stephen⁴ Dunham (Joseph^{3,2} John¹) born in Freetown 5 May 1709, died after 1 March 1782 when he acknowledged a deed of sale of land in Middleboro. Stephen married in Middleboro 10 May 1733 **Lydia Taylor**, of Taunton.

Children of Stephen and Lydia (Taylor)
Dunham: [Bristol County Probate Records p. 231]

- i. Stephen⁵ Dunham b. say 1735
d. before 26 May 1758
- ii. Solomon⁵ Dunham b. say 1740
(line of Gratia Dunham Mahony is from Solomon)
- iii. Joseph⁵ Dunham b. say 1743

36. Caleb⁴ Dunham (Joseph^{3,2} John¹) born say 1711. He is probably the Caleb Dunham who married in Braintree MA March 1732 **Mary Copeland**. She was daughter of Samuel and Mary (--) Copeland. In the settlement of the estate of Samuel Copeland of Braintree, lands were assigned to his “son Samuel Copeland, he paying unto his brothers and sisters”, one of whom was Mary Dunham.

He is placed here on the basis of his wit-

nessing a deed dated 28 March 1752 [Plymouth Co. LR 42:30] in which

*“land of Elkanah Leonard..sold to Jonathan Dunham...the 15th lot of land in the first allotment called Sixteen Shilling Purchase in Middleboro...the same lot that was Joseph Dunham’s deceased...
Witness: Caleb Dunham”*

Children of Caleb and Mary (Copeland) Dunham: born in Braintree [Braintree VR:768, 772, 779, 783, 793, 795, 873, 880]

- i. Mary ⁵ Dunham, b. 9 April 1733
- ii. Elizabeth ⁵ Dunham b. 4 Apr. 1735
- iii. Caleb ⁵ Dunham b. Nov. 1738
- iv. Lydia ⁵ Dunham b. 22 Oct. 1741
- v. Isaac ⁵ Dunham b. 28 July 1746
- iv. Susanna ⁵ Dunham b. 14 Apr. 1748
 - m. 25 January 1766 William Thayer
- vii. Possibly Thankful ⁵ Dunham b. say 1743 (not on VR of Braintree)
 - Braintree VR:880 give marriage of Thankful Dunham of Braintree to Abel Thayer of Weymouth, intent date 6 September 1766.

37. Josiah ⁴ Dunham (Joseph ^{3,2} John ¹) born say 1713, a son of Joseph ³ and Bethia (Chase) Dunham as proven by Plymouth County Land Record 79:209, died after 26 June 1794 when he signed a deed of sale for his land in Middleboro. Josiah⁴ married in Attleboro (intent date 16 February 1739/40) **Miriam Fuller**.

Josiah Dunham moved to Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont.

Children of Josiah ⁴ and Miriam (Fuller) Dunham born in Attleborough:

- i. child ⁵ baptized 2 May 1742, probably died young
- ii. Mehetabel ⁵ Dunham b. 19 February 17__
- iii. Josiah ⁵ Dunham b. 2 February 1745/6
- iv. Susanna ⁵ Dunham b. 7 November 17__
- v. William ⁵ Dunham b. 15 March 1749/50

40. Ephraim ⁴ Dunham (Joseph ^{3,2} John¹) born say 1719, died before 4 March 1756 when his widow (intent) married second Joseph Besse of Wareham. Ephraim married in Middleborough 30 November 1741 **Mercy Tinkham**, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Staples) Tinkham. Mercy was born in Middleborough 24 August 1726.

This was not Ephraim Dunham, son of Ephraim and Annis (Smith) Donham, as given in both the Isaac Watson Dunham Genealogy of the Dunham Family, published in 1907, and in *Mayflower Families-Peter Brown*, Vol. 7 p. 96. The second wife Elizabeth (Bump) Donham, [Ephraim who married (first) Annis Smith, married (second) Elizabeth Bump] was still living in 1756 when widow Mercy (Tinkham) (Dunham) married as her second husband Joseph Besse. It is likely that Ephraim was also living. He had written his will in 1753 but it was not probated until 1778, indicating that he died closer to that later date. Ephraim and Annis (Smith) Donham did not have a son named Ephraim as proved in the probate file of Ephraim who had heirs of his “only son Jonathan”.

In the Middleborough Vital Records for the births of his first two children, Ephraim is given as Ephraim Donham Junr.

This would indicate that he was younger than the Ephraim who married Annis Smith, who also resided in Middleborough, but as the terms “Senior” or “Junior” were used at that time it does not necessarily signify that he was a son of that Ephraim.

The children given in *Mayflower Families-Peter Brown, Vol. 7* page 96 are correct.

Children of Ephraim and Mercy (Tinkham) Dunham:

[Middleboro VR 1:75, 84,91]

- i. Mary⁵ b. 18 April 1742
- ii. Philemon⁵ b. 20 December 1744
- iii. Lydia⁵ b. 23 March 1747/8

41. Nathaniel⁴ Dunham (Joseph^{3,2} John¹) born say 1721, died in Mansfield MA 14 March 1796. Nathaniel probably married first an unknown wife. He married (probably as his second wife), probably in Raynham (given on Norton Vital Records as Nathaniel Dunham 1st intent 21 December 1757) 6 January 1757/8 **Esther Partridge** of Raynham. She died 15 May 1807 age 77 years and is buried in Brier Cemetery, Savoy, Berkshire County Massachusetts.

They resided in that part of Norton which became the district of Mansfield Massachusetts in 1770, and the town of Mansfield Massachusetts in 1775.

Children of Nathaniel and (unknown first wife) Dunham:

- i. Rachel⁵ Dunham b. 5 Feb. 1751
m. 28 May 1776 Seth Shepard
- ii. William⁵ Dunham b. 6 Jan. 1753
m. 2 Sept. 1784 Experience Pratt
- iii. Abigail⁵ Dunham b. 18 June 1757
d. 16 June 1759 in Norton

Children of Nathaniel and Esther

(Partridge) Dunham:

- iv. Caleb⁵ Dunham b. 27 March 1760,
Norton VR p. 51
- v. Isaac⁵ Dunham b. 10 December
1761, Norton VR p. 51
- vi. Daniel⁵ Dunham b. 8 January 1764,
Norton VR p. 51
- vii. Job⁵ Dunham b. in September 1768
(from gravestone) born probably in
Mansfield, MA

Future Research Needed

It becomes apparent that as the fourth and fifth generations moved away from Plymouth, and went their separate ways, the families became separated and family ties grew less strong. The new communities they moved to did not always have churches close to the new homesteads and so records of births and baptisms were not always maintained. Help can be found in researching deed records, but this can be time consuming. Not all the families owned land in particular places either, as often the major destination was farther west (or north), and families stopped along the way for sometimes a year or two before proceeding on. Thus, they may not have owned land at these mid points. Local histories, often written in the early 1900s, can be guides when they report information on a given family who settled in the subject area, but these should be used with caution and all facts should be proven. The best information can come from Dunhams and collateral families who are researching their lines today, and can sometimes produce Bible records or letters from their ancestors. The sharing of this informa-

tion on web sites or in places like Dunham/Singletary Family Connections is one way to expand the knowledge of all the members.

A Letter from Issac Watson Dunham

Editor's Note

The following letter, which Paul Dunham recently received from Lindsay Dunham, a current member of DSFC, has interest for all of us who may be interested in Dunham family historiography. The letter is from Issac Watson Dunham to Lindsay's great grandfather, David Brainerd Dunham. Issac W. Dunham published in 1907 a book entitled *Dunham Genealogy* with the subtitle *Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1589-1669, and His Descendants*. So far, it is the only extant book-length genealogical source on the Dunham family surname if we exclude David Lee Dunham's interesting book-in-progress and another comprehensive project underway by Gratia Dunham Mahony. There is also Yvonne Brunton's *The Singletary Family History*, but that is on the Singletarys mainly, although it is an essential resource for Dunham researchers interested in the Singletary branch of Dunhams.

Issac W. Dunham's letter is, as an example, a testament to the value of dispassion and objectivity in historical as well as scientific research. There are many inaccuracies in his book that subsequent researchers have uncovered, and of course we know today through DNA research and collective family records that Jonathan Singletary Dunham, whatever his shortcomings, is indeed the man who changed his name, built the first grist mill in Woodbridge,

New Jersey, and is the ancestor of a great number of us today.

Hi Paul,

You mentioned the newsletter. The following letter from Isaac Dunham to my great grandfather David Brainerd Dunham might be of interest. There has been a lot of discussion about some of the errors in Isaac's Dunham Genealogy. In this letter he is rather vehement in his opinion about our Jonathan Singletary.

*From the Office of Prof. Isaac W. Dunham,
347 Summit Ave, Schenectady N.Y. Oct 9
1902*

My dear Kinsman,

I have a very sick son, who is a very heavy real estate dealer and broker and has [had] in his sickness to delegate some of his cases upon me. I have in addition to prepare my annual report as Commissioner to the State Comptroller. This is a year which has thrown upon [me] greater responsibilities than any other for the past fifteen years. Having an earnest desire to evince (sic) to you my profound regard for you, I feel it a duty to answer your letter of [the] 17th, for in that I fear you have taken a wrong position as to your ancestry. I have worked for my Kinsmen for more than fifty years in studying their history. Nearly one hundred leading students in the Dunham research have placed in my hands the results of their labors. With my own efforts I am able with such assistance to present a fair outline of the rise and progress of our race. Now pardon me if I in [any] way send a word or words that are displeasing. I beg of you to consider the motive pure. The information I give is not from one party.

If you have never heard that Jonathan Singletary of Haverhill, Plymouth and New Jersey deserved the opprobrium of "licentiate and thief," there is evidence that your informers were ignorant of or wished to smother the facts that are recorded in Plymouth and New Jersey. Jonathan (Donham) Singletary was driven from Plymouth, from "town to town" out of the colony, for keeping company with a disreputable woman and committing dastardly offences. The records

of Plymouth show this. The records in New Jersey plainly say that he and Leprieve (sic) were apprehended, tried and condemned for stealing goods from the house of Governor Carteret.

The above is a matter of public record. With this information before me how could I apply milder terms? It is further on record that he was compelled to deed certain property to his Mary.

How different is such a record from that of the real Jonathan Dunham, a nephew of Bennaijah Dunham who came in 1670 to Woodbridge and established a mill and became a prominent citizen. His uncle Bennaijah came in 1672 and settled in Piscataway.

I did not understand by reading your letter that all of your information came from J.E.Marsh, for I know better. I have a high opinion of Mr. Marsh and that he is earnest in his researches, but he is mistaken as to the forefathers of the noble families of Dunham in New Jersey being Singletarys. The spelling of the names Donham and Dunham were both used by the early Dunhams.

I do not wish you for a moment without positive testimony [to] consider yourself a descendant of the Woodbridge Donhams. They are a noble race of men but your progenitor Benyew has no other record but in Middlesex and Somerset Counties. I have the names of the places and when he was a resident. He was a farmer near Amboy, married in Piscataway by his father who officiated at the weddings of his other children. His full record as given me is recorded in the Genealogy. If you can produce other evidence you will confer a favor by correcting your humble friend.

Faithfully yours
Isaac W. Dunham

December 15, 2005

Received from Paul C. Dunham:

I have transcribed a letter I received from one of our members recently. I thought everyone would be interested in her views. So far I think Phyllis Kitson is the only member to provide any information for the Newsletter outside the Board members. I attempt to garner some articles with every mailing I do to the members, but haven't noted any great success – perhaps my approach needs changing. I have not asked Evelyn for her permission to pass her comments along to you, but I don't think she will object. Paul

Mrs. Evelyn Hayner
3106 Hearthstone Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042-2404

Dear Paul,

Enclosed is my check for renewal to the Dunham/Singletary Family Connections for 2006.

In addition, let me offer my services for membership in this area. I know there are many Dunhams in Ellicott City. And then, too, there is my extended family – four nephews who are my brother's sons and 4 nieces, who are in different locations.

Let me suggest it would be good if there were some guidelines to follow in describing our organization. It seems that the organization is primarily genealogical which I'm not sure is as appealing to many as an organization where family and history is emphasized. With that in mind, what is our approach? Is everything done via E-MAIL?

Are you familiar with the story of Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham who gave his life for his men? A book called "The Gift of Valor" has been published about him. The author is Michael M. Phillips, and it is a tale to make anyone with the name of Dunham proud. I think it deserves attention in the newsletter. Perhaps his family should have honorary membership if such should interest them. In fact, more human interest stories would add to the Newsletter.

So there you have more than you had asked for. Yes, I do use the computer, when I can nudge my husband

out of the way. So you will have to decipher my handwriting in this. I feel I think better with pen in hand.

With best regards for you and the organization in '06. I am Evelyn L. Hayner [Evelyn Dunham Hayner]

Report from Donna Jones on Membership

Donna reports that we now have 84 members. Florida, Massachusetts, and Texas are all tied in first place with 7 members each. They are followed in second place by Florida with 5 members, then in third place by California and Michigan with 4 members each. It might be good to start thinking of a competition among the states. But membership recruitment is hard, as Donna's report below makes clear.

Donna's Report:

We have had 4 new members since the last newsletter. I have been working on the membership drive and have sent out a total so far of 609 letters with 94 being returned for various reasons; 5 inquires and 1 person joining. I have so far been working on Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington DC. Minnesota is on my list next after Idaho.

Anyone who is willing to help in their state is urged to contact me at **dunham564@surfglobal.net** . Any and all help will be appreciated.

Russell French is also working on parts of New Hampshire. Thank you Russell.

Membership Chairman
Donna Dunham Jones